



\$2.99 #14

Nodwick™

MOVE-IN SPECIALS



TENANTS WANTED
FOR REHABBED HOLLOU
OF HAZARDOUS HORROR

- Talons and ability to breathe fire a plus.
- Same-day credit checks.
- Undead welcome

Nodwick

BY AARON WILLIAMS

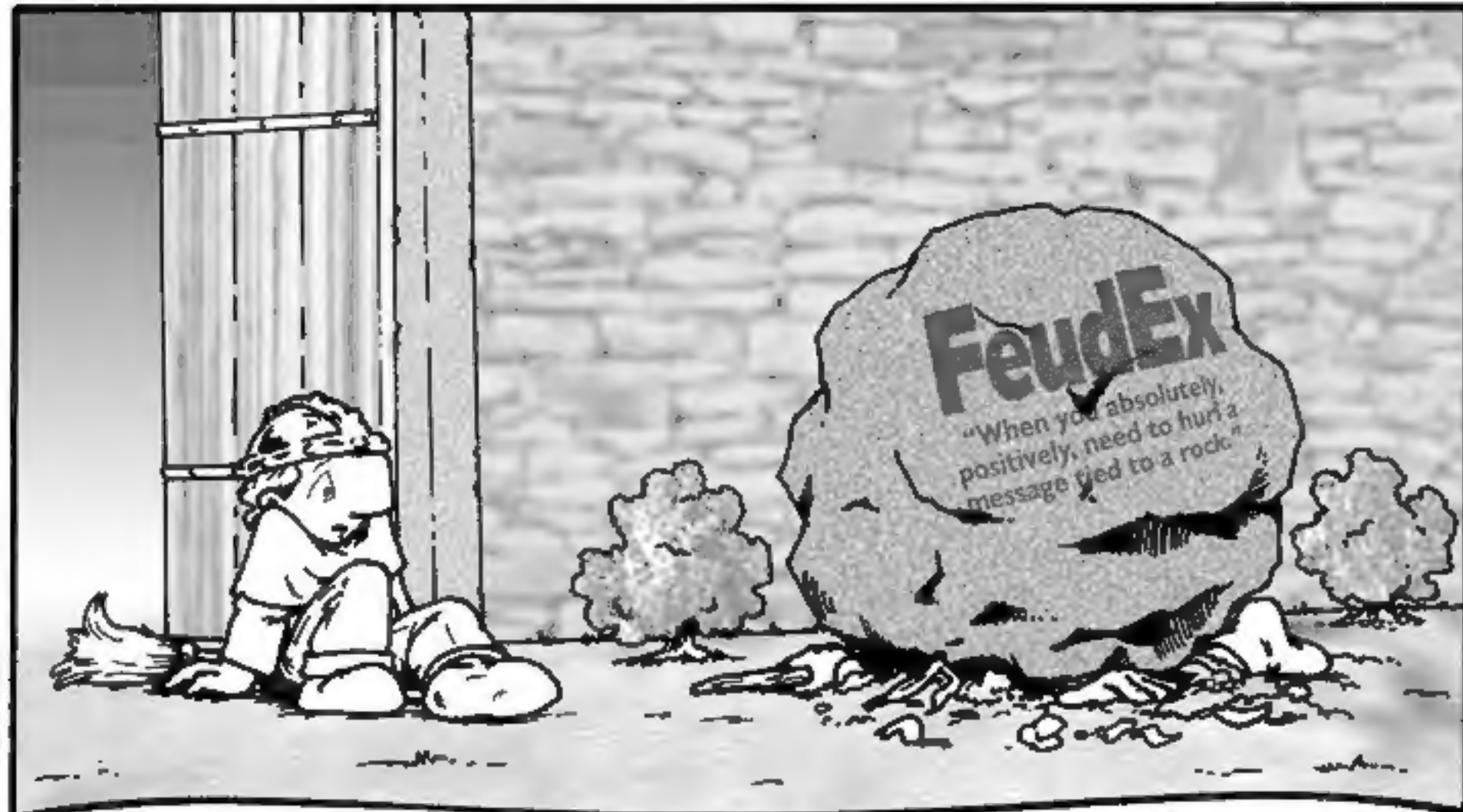
LADDLORDS OF THE REALM



SCREEEEEEEEEEEE

CRASH!!







OH, HECK YEAH!
Y'ALL GOTTA MAINTAIN,
UH, LESSEE HERE...

"A LEVEL OF PERIL AND
DREAD CONSISTENT WITH THE
FACILITIES OF EVIL PRESENT
IN THIS DISTRICT."

AND WHAT
WOULD
THAT BE?

OH, PRETTY DANGED HIGH, HENCHY-BOY!
Y'ALL GOT THE BAD LUCK OF BEIN' IN THE SAME
LOCALE AS TEN OTHER REGISTERED HAVENS OF DARKNESS
AND VILE POWERS, INCLUDIN' THE TEMPLE OF BLASPHEMY,
THE CITADEL OF THE HORNED ARCHFIEND, THE TOMB OF
LOST HOPE, AND MY PERSONAL FAVORITE, A
LITTLE PLACE CALLED "AIEEEEEEE!"

WHAT'S
THAT?

OH, I'D HATE T' SPOIL
IT FER YA. LET'S JUST SAY
YOU'VE GOT A LOT TO DO IF'N
Y'ALL WANNA BRING YER EVIL
QUOTIENT UP T' SPEC.

SO, WHAT HAPPENS IF WE
DONT MAKE THE HOLLOW AS NASTY
AS THE DESTINATION OF CHOICE
KNOWN AS "AIEEEEEEE?"

OH, WELL
THEN, WE'D HAVE TO
FORECLOSE.

WELL, DARN, IT'D
BE A SHAME TO LOSE
THE PLACE, BUT--

Y'ALL DON'T UNDERSTAND. WE'D SEIZE ALL YER ASSETS T' PAY FOR THIS PLACE. AT THE MOMENT, THAT SEEMS TO CONSIST OF A DOMICILE, A POKEBEANIE COLLECTION, A SLIGHTLY-USED WIZARD'S LAB SETUP, AND THE CONTRACT FOR A HENCHMAN.

UM, WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE NEVER BEEN HOME-LESS BEFORE, BUT--

WHAT WAS THAT LAST ONE AGAIN?



YOU'D ALSO FORFEIT SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF YOUR ADVENTURING WAGES FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS, IT LOOKS LIKE.

GEE, I KIND OF WISH WE'D READ THAT CONTRACT BEFORE WE SIGNED...

YES, THAT WOULD'VE BEEN NICE.



BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS Y'ALL HAVE A WEEK TO GET THE HOLLOW BACK TO HER OLD SELF! Y'ALL SHOULDN'T HAVE TOO MUCH TROUBLE, SEEN' THAT THE MONSTERS WE WERE GONNA KICK OUT ARE STILL LVIN' THERE! AND I MEAN, WHY NOT? Y'ALL GOT 'EM STAYIN' RENT-FREE.

THANKS FOR THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, THERE.

YOU GUYS PROMISED THEM MY WHAT??? FOR ALL OF ETERNITY???

WE'LL BE IN TOUCH C'MON, LET'S GO.

SHOOT, I'D LIVE THERE MYSELF IF I DIDN'T HAVE A LITTLE OL' RANCH ON THE SOUTH PLANES OF TARTARUS.



LATER, AT THE HOLLOW OF HAZARDOUS HORROR...

LET'S GO GET THE MONSTERS' BUTTS IN GEAR! WE NEED THEM EATING LOCAL LIVESTOCK WITH A SIDE OF INNOCENT VILLAGER!

DON'T WE HAVE A DIRE ~~WYRM~~ DOWN HERE? HOW CAN OUR EVIL RATING BE AS LOW AS IT IS WITH ONE OF THOSE LIVING IN THIS DUMP?

UM, WELL...

AND WHAT ABOUT THE TWO OGRES THAT WE MET LAST TIME? I MEAN, THEY GAVE ME A TOUR OF THEIR STOMACHS WITHOUT SO MUCH AS ASKING IF I WAS LIGHT OR DARK MEAT.

GRANTED, WE TOOK THE STAR OF ELYSIVANIA, BUT WE DUMPED ENOUGH ~~SHOG~~ FROM OUR OTHER ADVENTURES IN ITS PLACE TO ATTRACT ADVENTURERS LIKE FLIES!

UM, ABOUT THAT—

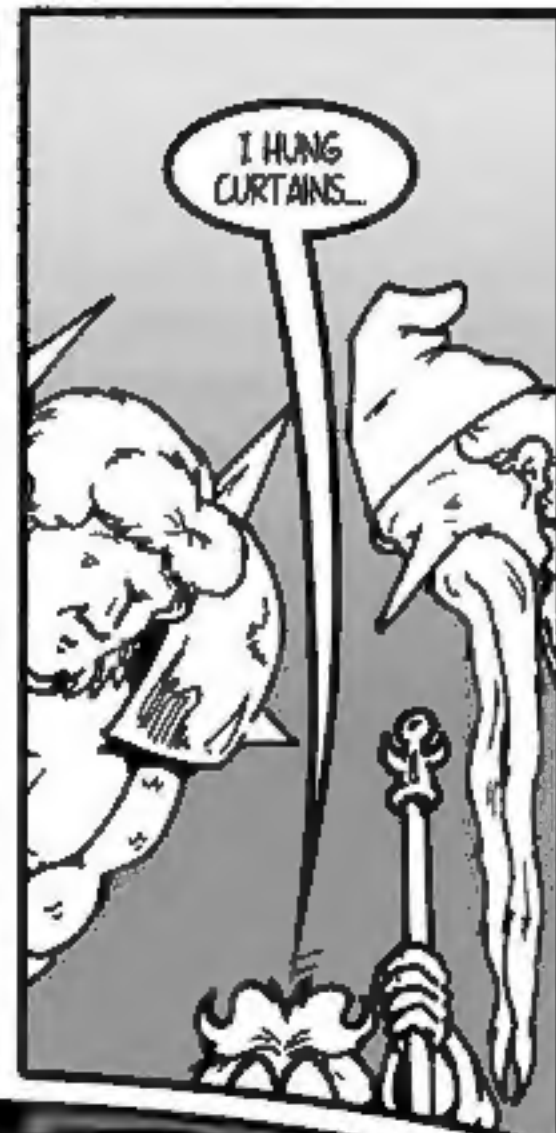
NOT THAT THIS IS A BAD THING, BUT DIDN'T WE SET OFF A BUNCH OF TRAPS LAST TIME WE WERE HERE?

YES... ABOUT THIRTY FEET BACK, I THINK.

THEY DON'T WORK ANYMORE.









WELL, SINCE WE'RE HERE, I SHOULD GO CHECK AND SEE HOW EVERYONE'S DOING!

EVERYONE?

HELLO, GUYS!

PIFFANY! HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?

AND HER TASTY FRIEND! IT'S BEEN SOME TIME SINCE WE'VE SEEN YOU!



OH, WELL, MY JOB KEEPS ME BUSY, YOU KNOW! I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO GO TO THE STORE LATELY, SO—

YOU CAN FORGET ABOUT THAT FROM NOW ON. WE'VE BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT!

UM, HOW?

COME ON, I'LL SHOW YOU...





WE JUST GOT THE FIRST MONTH'S INCOME FROM SELLING HER MORE PORTABLE PIECES. I'M TOLD THAT A FEW OF THEM ARE ON DISPLAY IN MORE THAN ONE ROYAL RESIDENCE.

ARE ALL OF THE CREATURES LIVING HERE THIS TALENTED?



NOT QUITE, BUT EVERYONE CONTRIBUTES. WHEN PIFFANY GAVE US A TASTE OF HOW LIFE COULD BE WITHOUT KILLING EVERYTHING THAT MOVES, WE DISCOVERED MORE POSITIVE OUTLETS FOR OUR STRENGTHS AND ABILITIES.

AH, WELL, THERE LIES THE PROBLEM. WE HAD A TALK WITH OUR REAL ESTATE AGENT, AND—

—AND WE COULDN'T BE HAPPIER WITH WHAT YOU'VE DONE WITH THE PLACE! TELL YOU WHAT, I SAW SOME LOVELY PINECONES AND WILDFLOWERS THAT WOULD MAKE A KEEN CENTERPIECE, AND I NEED TO GATHER THEM BEFORE NIGHT FALLS.

I UNDERSTAND. WE TOO HAVE DISCOVERED THE JOYS OF THE HUMBLE PINECONE. THANK YOU AGAIN FOR ALL OF YOUR HELP!



I CAN'T DO IT, NODWICK.

OH, I DON'T KNOW. WHY WAIT FOR FALL IF YOU WANT PINECONE CENTERPIECES?

NO, I CAN'T MAKE THEM EVIL AGAIN! THEY USED TO BE STINKY BAD-NAUGHTIES AND NOW THEY'RE ARTISTS AND FARMERS AND STUFF!

WELL, MAYBE WE SHOULD GO LOOK AT THE OTHER PLACES WE'RE BEING MEASURED AGAINST. PERHAPS THEY AREN'T AS BAD AS DYBBUK MAKES THEM OUT TO BE.

THAT'S THE
SPIRIT! I KNEW
SOME OF MY SUNNY
DISPOSITION WOULD
RUB OFF ON YOU!

I KNOW.
IT'S REALLY
STARTING TO
SCARE ME...

OKAY, I
THINK I'VE
CREATED A
DESICCATE
AND DECAY
SPELL THAT
SHOULD MAKE
THIS PLACE AS
LIVABLE AS
YOUR SOCK
DRAWER.

AN' THEN AH'M A-
GONNA GIVE IT THA' SPECIAL
(HIC) RANSACKED LOOK.
THIS'LL BE GREAT!

THIS IS GOING
TO BE HARDER THAN
I THOUGHT.

YEAH, BUT
THEEZ'L LOOK
GREAT IN TH'
YARD.

YOU MEAN THE
YARD WERE GOING TO
LOSE IF THIS PLACE
STAYS A "POTTERY
CAIRN?"

YEAH.
THA' YARD'LL
LOOK
SCHLICK!

OGRE-
CANIC
FOODS

MEANWHILE, AT THE TOMB OF LOST HOPE.



THIS PLACE DOESN'T LOOK THAT EVIL.

WELL, IT'S HARD TO TELL WITHOUT GOING IN, BUT--

GOOD IDEA! LET'S GO!

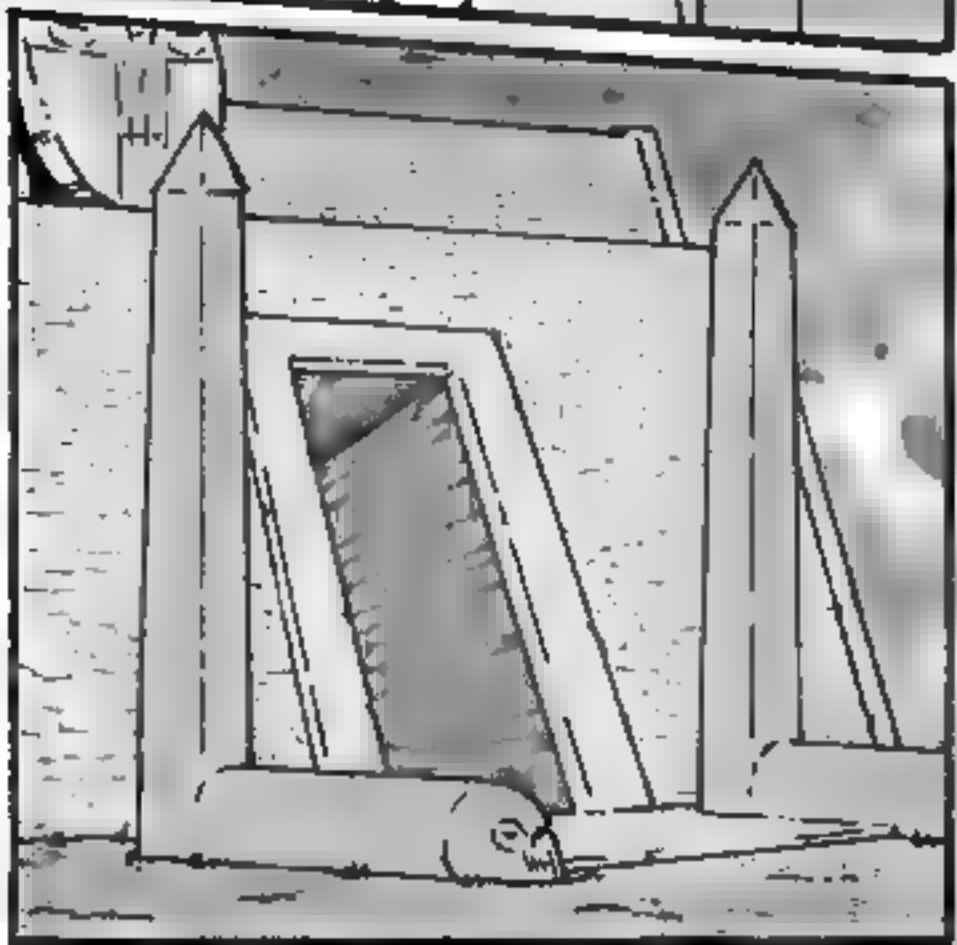
UM, DON'T YOU THINK IT MIGHT BE A BIT DANGEROUS IF JUST THE TWO OF US GO POKING AROUND IN THERE WITHOUT THE GUYS?

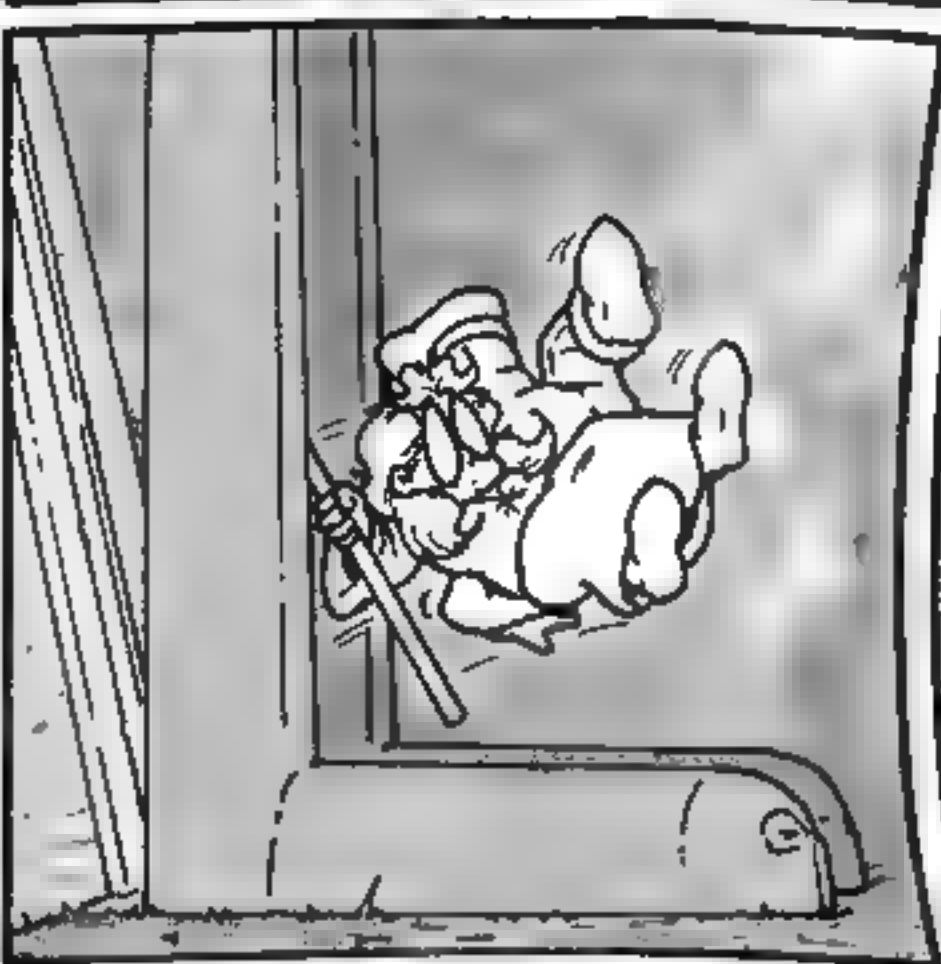
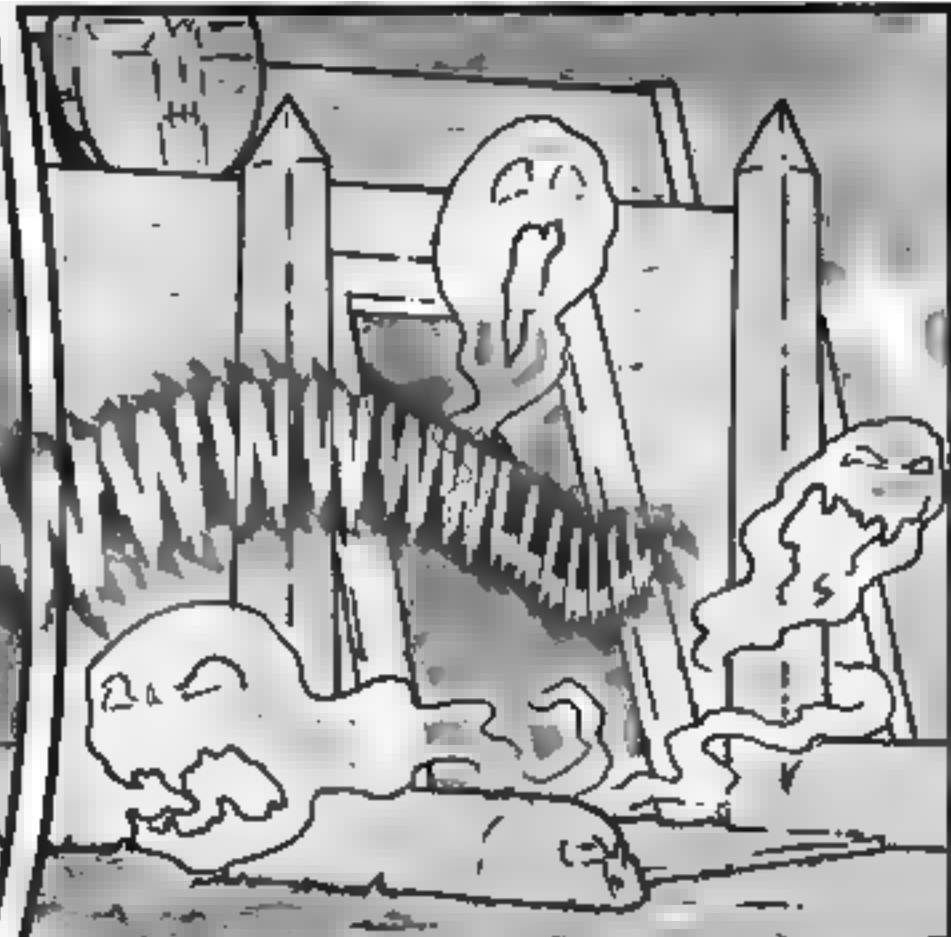
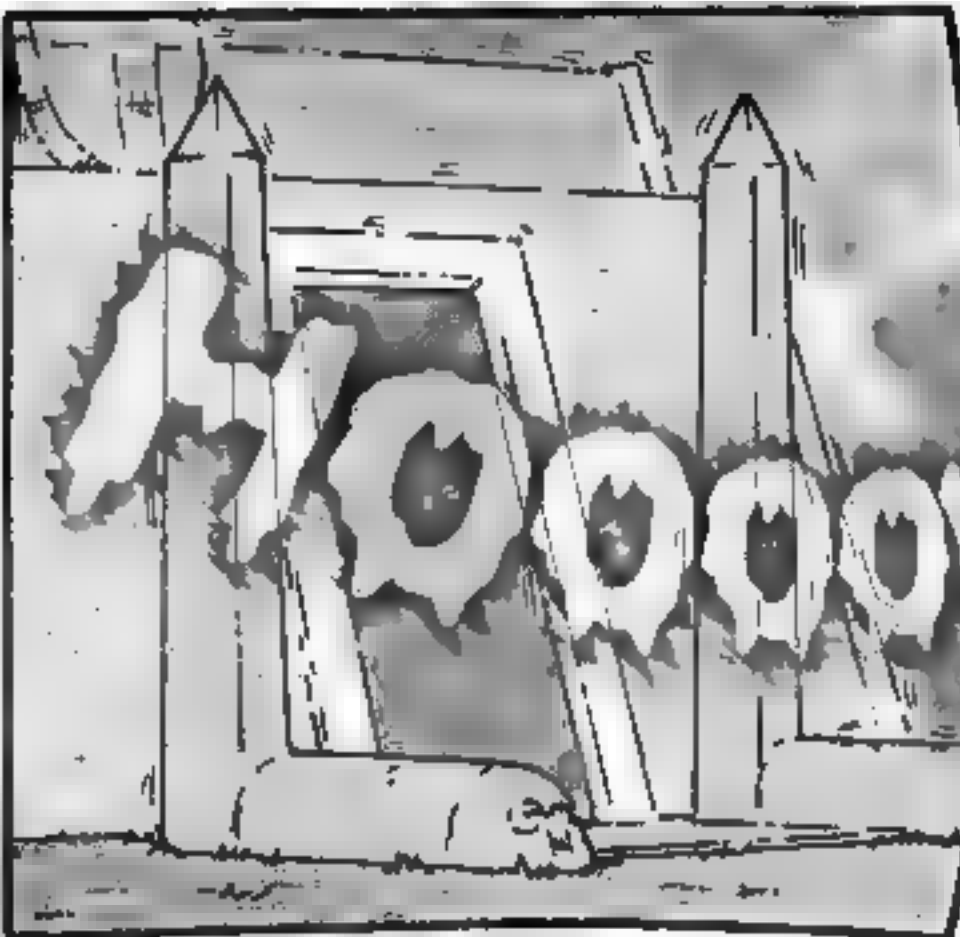


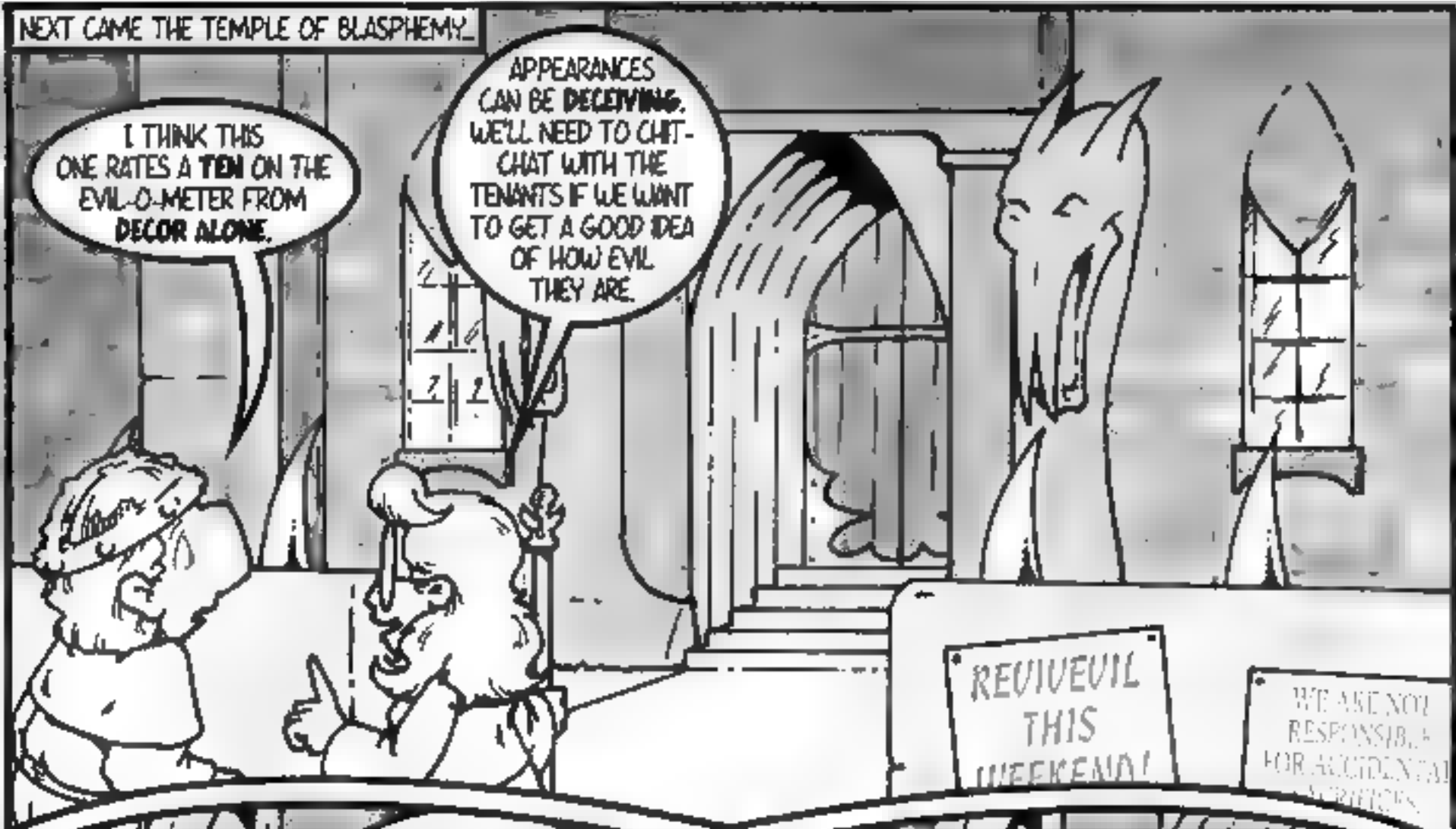
DON'T WORRY, AS SOON AS WHATEVER LIVES HERE SEES WE'RE JUST TOURISTS AND NOT TRESPASSERS, I'M SURE THEY'LL WELCOME US AS FELLOW LANDLORDS.



I HOPE THEY HAVE REFRESHMENTS!







THAT'LL
BE ENOUGH OF
THAT.

BINK!

C'MON, NODWICK!
WE'VE GOT MORE PLACES
TO EXPLORE!

THE CITADEL OF THE HORNED ARCHFEND.

I DON'T SUPPOSE
WE CAN LEARN FROM PAST
EXPERIENCE AND-

OH, I
HAVE A PLAN
FOR THIS ONE!
LET'S GO!



MY LORD,
SOME FOOLS WISH
TO PETITION YOUR
COURT.


IT HAS BEEN A
WHILE SINCE I SENT SOME
VICTIMS SCREAMING INTO
THE UNDERMALLS. BRING
THEM TO ME.



I PRESENT
BEFORE OUR GREAT
AND TERRIBLE
HORNED LORD,
PIFFANY THE CLERIC
AND HER PET!


I'M
YOUR—?

IT WAS THE
BEST OPTION
THEY GAVE ME.
THEIR ADMITTANCE
QUESTIONNAIRE
IS REALLY
DISTURBING.



WHY DO YOU COME
BEFORE ME KNOWING FULL
WELL THAT YOUR FATE WILL
BE SEALED BEFORE THE
SUN SETS?

OH, I JUST
REMEMBERED THAT I HAVE
A BUNCH OF T.G.I. FEUDAL'S
COUPONS THAT EXPIRE IN
A FEW MINUTES, SO—



WE JUST MOVED INTO THE
NEIGHBORHOOD, AND WE WANTED TO
STOP AND SAY "HI" TO THE PEOPLE
WHO WE'D BE RUBBING SHOULDER-
PLATES WITH!

NEIGHBORHOOD?
WHAT—?

YOU'VE HEARD OF THE HOLLOW OF HAZARDOUS HORROR? THAT'S US. WE WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF REMODELING AND WE THOUGHT TO OURSELVES, "WHY, WHO WILL WE EVER GO TO IF WE NEED TO BORROW A CUP OF SUGAR?"



WE HAVE NO SUGAR HERE. ALL WE HAVE IS THE SWEET TASTE OF DESPAIR--

SO TO MAKE SURE WE START THINGS OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT, I BROUGHT ALONG SOME MONK-MUNCHIES AND SISTER-SCOUT COOKIES!



ARE ANY OF THESE THE CHOCOLATE MINT ONES?



BOOM! WE MADE IT OUT ALIVE! THOSE GUYS WEREN'T SO BAD, I GUESS.

OH, NO! THEY WERE MASSIVELY EVIL!



DIDN'T YOU NOTICE HOW THEY DRANK WATER WITH THEIR COOKIES RATHER THAN MILK? IF EVER THERE WAS A GREATER SIGN OF COMPLETE AND TOTAL CORRUPTION, I DON'T WANT TO KNOW WHAT IT IS!



ON TO THE NEXT DEN OF NAUGHTINESS!

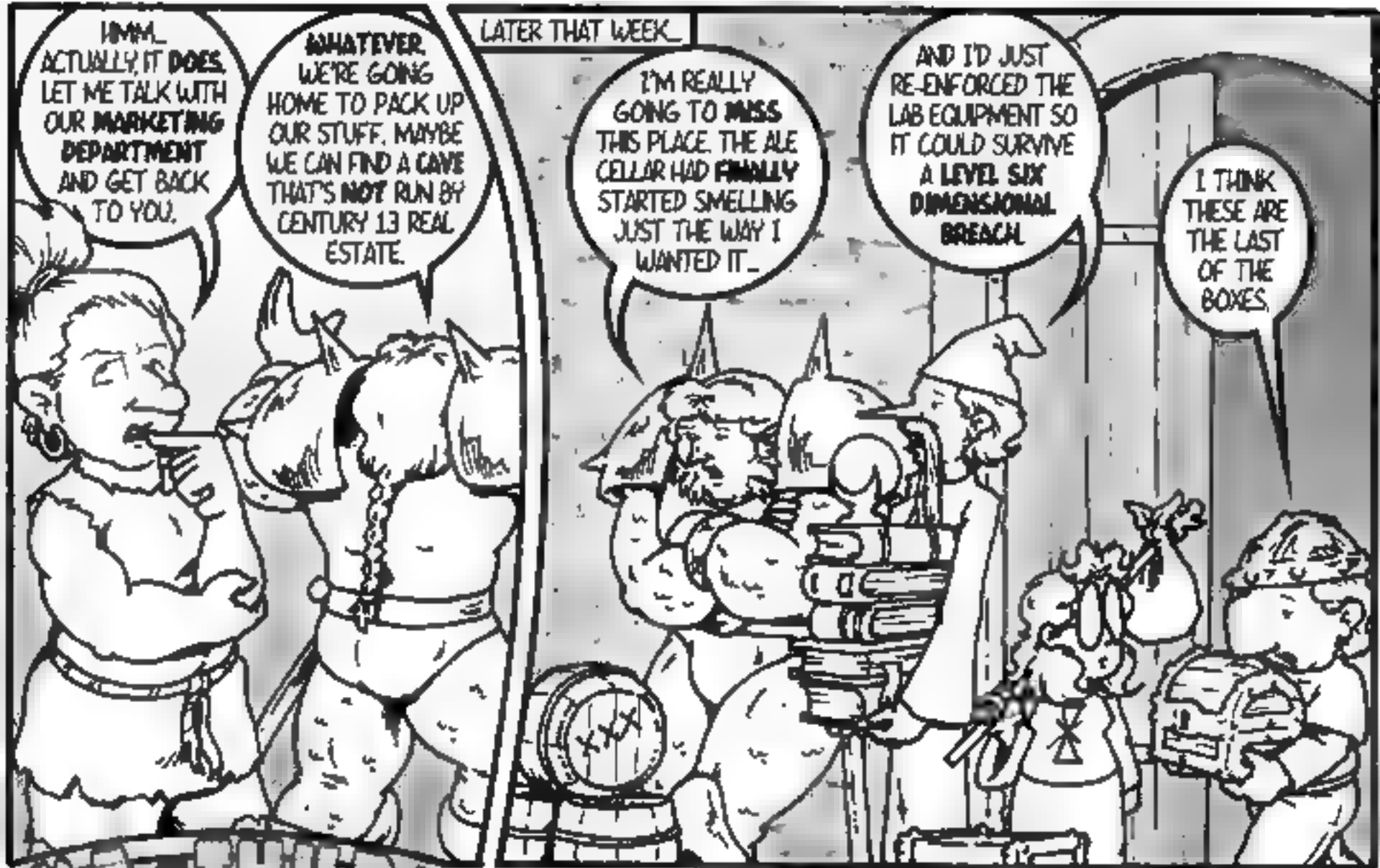
WAIT, SO THREATENING TO FEED US TO AN ABYSSAL LURKER ISN'T AS GREAT A CHARACTER FLAW AS CHOOSING THE WRONG BEVERAGE?



HOURS LATER, BACK AT THE HOLLOW...







IMMA
ACTUALLY IT DOES
LET ME TALK WITH
OUR MARKETING
DEPARTMENT
AND GET BACK
TO YOU.

WHATEVER
WE'RE GOING
HOME TO PACK UP
OUR STUFF. MAYBE
WE CAN FIND A CAVE
THAT'S NOT RUN BY
CENTURY 13 REAL
ESTATE.

LATER THAT WEEK

I'M REALLY
GOING TO MISS
THIS PLACE. THE ALE
CELLAR HAD FINALLY
STARTED SMELLING
JUST THE WAY I
WANTED IT.

AND I'D JUST
RE-ENFORCED THE
LAB EQUIPMENT SO
IT COULD SURVIVE
A LEVEL SIX
DIMENSIONAL
BREACH.

I THINK
THESE ARE
THE LAST
OF THE
BOXES.



MESSAGE
FOR YOU,
SIR.

FeudEx
"When you receive
positive feedback
message returned"



DYBBUK
WANTS TO
MEET WITH
US.

OH, GOOD.
HE WANTS TO
RUB IT IN.

AND TAKE
POSSESSION OF MY
SOUL. I HOPE IT'S NOT
TOO WARM WHERE I'LL
BE WORKING FOR
ETERNITY.

FeudEx





AS CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OF THE HOLLOW OF HAZARDOUS HORROR, I ACCEPT! JUST SEND ME THE PAPERWORK AND WE'LL CLOSE THE DEAL!

FEUDAL EXPRESS?

NAH. WHY PAY **SOMEONE ELSE** FOR WHAT YOU'VE GOT THE EQUIPMENT TO DO YOURSELF?

IT ALL WORKED OUT FOR THE BEST!

MUCH TO MY SURPRISE AND AMAZEMENT, IT DID!

WELL, EXCEPT FOR DYBBUK. I BET WHOEVER HE WORKS FOR WILL WANT HIS HORNS ON A PLATTER.

THAT NIGHT, IN A FORGOTTEN CAVERN.

MY MINIONS HAVE ALL FORSAKEN ME TO MAKE TRINKETS! THEY FORGE FURNITURE WHERE THEY USED TO FORGE FEAR!

MY TOMB IS MORE VIOLATED THAN I COULD HAVE EVER IMAGINED. MY OWN BURIAL CHAMBER IS NOW USED FOR PRODUCT STORAGE.

I FEAR THE GODS OF DARKNESS HAVE LEFT MY TEMPLE. MY EX-FOLLOWERS NOW WORSHIP THE DEITIES OF COMMERCE AND "WORKER PRODUCTIVITY." GOOD'S LIGHT HAS FALLEN ACROSS THE LAND, AND IT IS SPREADING...



FEAR NOT. WHETHER OR NOT YOU
KNOW IT, YOU SERVE ME OR MY ENDS, AND
I BRING YOU A MESSAGE OF HOPE...

MY TIME
IS COMING.
DARKNESS SHALL
RISE...

AND THE FIRST
SIGN OF THIS IS
NIGH...



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